

fruit is said to have anthelmintic properties, Dr. Kirkpatrick having stated that he used it as an anthelmintic, in doses of twenty to thirty grains, with good effect. A gruel is also made of the flour of the dried kernel, for administration in obstinate diarrhoea, leucorrhoea, and hæmorrhoids. A resin obtained from the bark being considered antisyphilitic" (*op. cit.*, p. 87).

In Dr. Pickering's work (Little, Brown and Co., Boston, 1879), mention is made of a plant known as "mango ginger," the "*curcuma amada*" of Tropical Hindostan, called in Bengalese *Amada*, and in Sanscrit *Amra*. Roxburgh observed it in Bengal. Its root is used as a carminative and stomachic, according to Drury. Nimmo speaks of it as found in Guzerat, the fresh roots smelling like green mangoes (Graham). (*Op. cit.*, p. 872.)

Dr. U. C. Dutt, F.L.S., in *The Hindu Materia Medica* (Thacker and Co., Calcutta, 1877), says: "The ripe fruit of *Mangifera Indica*, 'Aam' in Hindostani, is somewhat laxative and useful to persons of constipated habits. The bark and kernel are regarded as astringent, and useful in hæmorrhages, diarrhoea, and other discharges. In bleeding from the nose, the juice of the kernel is recommended; and in bleeding from internal organs, a cold infusion of the bark is of service" (*op. cit.*, p. 140).

Lastly, in Waring's *Pharmacopæia of India* (Allen and Co., published by authority of the India Office), we are informed that the only part of the mango tree which claims notice is the kernel, which, not only in India, but in Brazil, is employed as an anthelmintic; Dr. Kirkpatrick having frequently employed powdered mango-seed for lumbrici (in the doses already specified above). He (Dr. Kirkpatrick) adds, that it contains a large proportion of gallic acid, and that he has administered it with great success in hæmorrhoids and in menorrhagia (*op. cit.*, p. 59).

I would observe, in conclusion, that although it may be possible now and then to obtain, in this country, the fruit and bark of the mango tree, as reared in the Palm House at Kew, it by no means follows that the active principle or principles which might be obtainable from such samples would be identical, either in kind or quantity, with those obtainable from the tree when grown in its natural habitats. Were proof of this statement necessary, it is to be found in the entire absence of the cannabis resin in the hemp-plant as grown in this country; whereas the resin is never absent in it as grown in India and elsewhere within the torrid zone. If, therefore, we are to arrive at a correct estimate of the nature and uses of the active principle or principles of the mango, it must be based on really scientific analysis performed in its normal habitats.

One thing seems quite clear, that a medicinal principle resides in the mango, whether it be in the pulp of the fruit itself, in the kernel of the fruit or in the bark, which is capable of exercising highly beneficial effects on inflamed or congested mucous surface. Without more complete data to go upon than have already become available, it would be folly to speculate as to whether the same active principle is efficient in such diseases as have been referred to by Dr. Murrell, and in those in which an anthelmintic action is sought for.—I am, sir, your very obedient servant,
G. C. WALLICH.

London.

THE CARNIVOROUS DIET.

SIR,—On Friday, January 8th, I read the account of Dr. Salisbury's treatment in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and determined to try the effect of it in my own case. Seven years ago, I weighed 11 st. 12 lbs. (height, 5 ft. 9 in.), and when I trained for my college-boat I always lost five pounds. A month ago, I weighed 14 st., so I was at least two stone above my weight. If any of my lean brethren wish to know how I felt, let them put on a top coat with two stone of shot stowed away in the pockets, and wear it for a single day. When my friends congratulated me on my aldermanic appearance, their compliments were as gall and wormwood to my soul. If they had felt as I did, that the hills of life were growing steeper, and that the pleasure of living was contracting in a daily narrowing circle, they would have condoled with instead of congratulated me.

For the last six weeks, I have lived on lean meat and hot water, or its equivalent, and yesterday I weighed 13 stone. I have taken a pint of hot water (130° Fahr.) at 7 A.M.; a pint of "schoolroom-tea" with a squeeze of lemon in it at 11.30 A.M.; the same at 3.30 or 4 P.M.; and a pint of hot water (130° Fahr.) at 10 P.M.; a pound of beefsteak at 8.30 A.M.; a pound and a quarter at 1.30 P.M.; and a pound at 6.30 P.M. This has been hot, but preferably cold, and has been varied with hare, chicken, etc.

The result is this. I am a stone less in weight; I am six inches less in girth; my gouty "heirlooms," in the shape of "hereditary deposits," have disappeared; my flatulent indigestion has vanished;

my mental and bodily activity have doubled; I spoke on Thursday for an hour with less effort than I did in December for ten minutes; I sleep for seven hours without moving; I can wear gloves and shoes a size smaller; I have lost my tendency to catch cold; my muscles are daily hardening; my kidneys are doing their duty nobly; my figure is altering so rapidly that my tailor is in despair, but I am triumphant.

When I have completed the course, if you will spare me room, I will finish my tale, and relate the lessons I have learnt in dietetics and therapeutics during the experiment.—Yours faithfully,

Ben Rhydding, Leeds.

JOHN FLETCHER LITTLE.

ON A CONDITION OF THE INNER SURFACE OF THE UTERUS AFTER THE BIRTH OF THE FŒTUS, OF PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE.

SIR,—The point of practical importance at which Dr. Braxton Hicks arrived in publishing his original paper was to warn against the danger of mistaking something in the uterus, after the birth of the child, for adherent placenta, when there was no adherent placenta. Neither Dr. Braxton Hicks nor any other man can deny that this was pointed out, not only before the appearance of Dr. Hicks's paper in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of October 10th, 1885, but before his communication to the Association at Cardiff last year.

As to the precise condition that may give rise to this mistake, there is no absolute proof. Dr. Hicks says it is one thing. He may be correct, or he may not. I may be wrong too; but that has really nothing to do with the point of practical importance, which is all I referred to. It is a pity Dr. Hicks cannot find the references I gave.—Yours very truly,
J. STUART NAIRNE.

MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANTS AND THE DISPENSARY SYSTEM.

BEFORE his Honour, Judge Greenhow, at the Leeds County Court, a point of considerable importance was raised last week, in an action brought by Mr. Henry Arthur Allbutt, M.R.C.P. Edin., against a woman named Britton, to recover the sum of £1 for professional aid. Mr. Dunn, who appeared for the plaintiff, said that he believed that the question to be raised had been looked upon in some quarters as one of an important character, but, in his opinion, it was one of the most ordinary medical cases with which his Honour had had to deal. Mr. Allbutt lived in Park Square, where he had a surgery; and he also had surgeries in Sheepscar and in Hunslet. In Hunslet, the plaintiff attended whenever there was an absolute necessity for his doing so; but there resided regularly at his surgery there a gentleman named Bowell, who was not a qualified practitioner. Mr. Bowell attended to the ordinary cases; and, whenever a serious case arose, Mr. Allbutt himself was called in. When Mr. Allbutt sent out his accounts, some of his debtors turned round and said that, though they had received the attention of his assistant, they declined to pay, because the latter was not a qualified man. William Henry Gisburn Bowell said that the house in Hunslet belonged to him, but he allowed Mr. Allbutt to have a surgery there. Formerly, his cousin, Mr. Gisburn, carried on the business there; and, at his death, Mr. Allbutt took it over. Mr. Allbutt's name was on the bills, and it was well known that the business was his. By the Judge: Witness's name was on the door, and not Mr. Allbutt's. The profits of the business went to Mr. Allbutt, and the witness received from him a fixed salary. The Judge: How often is he there? Witness: He comes on Mondays for vaccination cases, spends all the forenoon, and during the week he comes whenever there is anything special. The Judge: But has he anything to do with the treatment you prescribe? Witness: I have to attend to the cases.—Do you report to him? Not in every case.—When do you make a report? Whenever I meet him. Defendant said that she had never seen Mr. Allbutt before, and had never been attended by him. His Honour said that Mr. Allbutt was not entitled to recover in this case. The Medical Act intended that a doctor should practise by his own mind and skill, and not by the mind and skill of an unqualified man who was not acting under his immediate supervision. Wherever a surgeon or physician carried on business in another house, by means of an unqualified assistant, who was not under the supervision and control of his master, he could not recover for professional aid rendered by that assistant. In this case the business was carried on separately, and, while the plaintiff was liable for damages for the negligence of